Washington, D. C. 20505

18 May 1978

Mir. J. K. Fasick, Director International Division General Accounting Office Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Mr. Fasick:

This is in response to your letter to the Director dated 1 May 1978 enclosing for our review GAO's proposed report, which is now entitled "There is No Evidence of Wide-Spread Conspiracy to Obstruct Probes of Alleged Nazi War Criminals Now in U.S., But Controversy May Continue."

In taking note of the study's conclusion that it is unlikely that there was a conspiracy involving any Government agencies to obstruct investigations of persons alleged to have engaged in war crimes, it is clear that at no time did CIA intervene in or obstruct any Immigration and Naturalization Service investigation or prosecution of any individuals in the list provided by GAO, or in any other case. The report places in proper context the CIA's contacts with those few individuals among the III persons of interest to the GAO investigation. CIA provided assistance to only one of these individuals to facilitate his entry into the United States and entry was concurred in by the Departments of Justice and State. Unsubstantiated allegations against this individual were not reported until later and occurred only after he left the U.S. in 1953. The remaining individuals of interest to CIA were contacted as possible sources of foreign intelligence either abroad or in the United States but in no case did this occur where there were well-founded allegations of war crimes.

Unfortunately, the summary of the study gives the impression that the type of access to CIA records afforded to the GAO investigators did not permit total validation of the determinations and conclusions in the study. We would like the record to show that we were prepared at all times to make complete files (appropriately sanitized to protect intelligence sources and methods) available for review by the investigators to validate

HCD reviewed & judged not relevant NWC Act

their conclusions. It is appreciated that the report acknowledges that the summaries and original CIA documents were reviewed by a staff member of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, and International Law.

We are most appreciative of the understanding shown by your staff in this investigation to ensure the protection of sensitive Agency information.

